

# barometer

## Promoting Ethanol and Growth Force with a Motorcycle

Matt Gerhold, Commodity Manager at POET Biorefining – Macon, Mo. has “tricked-out” his 2002 Honda VFR-800 Interceptor motorcycle with custom graphics including Growth Energy’s Growth Force logo.

Gerhold runs E15 in his motorcycle, which required no engine modifications. The machine’s 11.6:1 compression ratio actually helps it develop more horsepower on E15 over regular gasoline. Additionally, the cycle is quite unique in that it



runs on only two valves per cylinder until an engine speed of ~6000 rpm is reached, then the other

two valves per cylinder open up giving immediate maximum power. As equipped, Matt’s bike turns out ~120 hp and can do a quarter mile in under 11 seconds.

After being granted permission to use the logos, Gerhold worked with a local graphics company to apply the decals. Further demonstrating his loyalty and belief in ethanol, he paid for this with his own personal funds.



## Going the Farthest

Students from Alden-Conger High School near Albert Lea, Minn. have achieved 2nd place nationally in the alternative fuel category of Shell’s 2011 Eco-marathon competition. The competition challenges high school and college student teams from around the world to design, build and test energy efficient vehicles. Teams are challenged to go the farthest distance using the least amount of energy.

The Alden-Conger Supermileage Team and their #47 Green Machine, achieved 759 miles per gallon with 100 percent ethanol to achieve 2nd place. In addition to some well-earned bragging rights, the team won \$1,000. First place went to another ethanol team from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The competition took place April 15-17, 2011 in Houston, Texas.

POET Biorefining – Glenville has been an ongoing sponsor, providing funds to the school so they are able to participate in this event. The POET team presented a certificate of recognition at a school gathering on April 19, to congratulate the team and school on their excellent achievement.

“It’s rewarding to see the students’ hard work pay off and demonstrate the high performance qualities of ethanol,” General Manager Rick Mummert said. “These kids, and this world-class achievement, make us very proud to be one of their sponsors.”

## And the winner is ... POET Biorefining – Preston, Minn.

On May 13, POET Biorefining – Preston was awarded the Governor’s Safety Award. In Minnesota, 168 employers were recognized for superior performance in workplace safety and health.

POET’s top priority has always been safety and the Preston location is showcasing that in fine form!